

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for storing data comprising:
receiving a composite data stream from a server;
storing the received composite data stream so that it may be restored to the server, said
storing including,
decomposing the composite data stream into a plurality of
constituent data streams, the plurality of constituent data
streams including at least a first constituent data stream of
user data and a second constituent data stream of
administrative data, wherein the composite data stream is
further sectioned into one or more sections, each including
data from both the first and second constituent data
streams, and wherein said decomposing includes,
storing a composite data stream map that indicates how to
recompose the plurality of constituent data streams
into the composite data stream,
wherein the composite data stream map includes a map
header and one or more map blocks, each map
block corresponding to a section, wherein the map
header includes a composite data stream identifier
for identifying the associated composite data
stream, a total number of constituent data streams
associated with the composite data stream, and a

constituent data stream identifier for identifying
each of the constituent data streams, and wherein
each map block includes information identifying a
location of each of the identified constituent data
streams;

segmenting at least one of the plurality of constituent data streams decomposed
from the composite data stream;
determining which segments resulting from the segmenting match segments
already stored;
in lieu of storing those of the segments resulting from the segmenting which
are determined to match already stored segments, storing pointers to
those already stored segments; and
storing those of the segments resulting from the segmenting determined not to
match already stored segments.

2. – 3. (Cancelled).

4. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein said
storing the received composite data stream further comprises:

determining the second constituent data stream is of administrative data that may be
restored by regeneration rather than being stored; and
discarding said ~~first~~ second constituent data stream.

5. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 4, wherein a map block of the composite data stream map further comprises a composite offset and a constituent data stream offset for each constituent data stream, wherein the composite offset specifies an offset in the composite data stream from which a starting data stream block of data to be recomposed from the constituent data streams identified by corresponding constituent data stream offsets, and wherein each constituent data stream offset indicates an offset in a corresponding constituent data stream from which the starting data stream block of data is to be recomposed ~~wherein the administrative data is tape markers and/or header information.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 5, wherein map block of the composite data stream map further comprises a list of one or more composite data stream descriptors, each corresponding to a data stream block to be recomposed for the composite data stream, wherein each composite data stream descriptor includes an identifier identifying a constituent data stream corresponding to a next data stream block and a length specifying a length of the next data stream block in an order, and wherein each composite data stream descriptor indicates, in order, how much of which constituent data stream to take next to recompose the composite data stream ~~claim 1 wherein the storing the received composite data stream comprises segmenting each of the plurality of constituent data streams.~~

7. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for efficiently storing data comprising:

receiving over time, at a storage server having a composite data stream

decomposer/recomposer and a segment reuse storage system, a plurality of

composite data streams from a server, each of said plurality of composite data

streams representing snapshots of data residing at a set of one or more sources taken over said time, wherein the server receives data streams from the client applications, wherein the client applications and/or server insert into the data streams administrative data that is expected upon restore and that if kept in the data streams would result in a relatively low compression efficiency of the segment reuse storage system; and

storing each of said plurality of composite data streams so that it may be restored to the server, said storing including,

decomposing the composite data stream into a plurality of constituent data streams, the plurality of constituent data streams including at least a first constituent data stream of user data and a second constituent data stream of administrative data, wherein the composite data stream is further sectioned into one or more sections, each including data from both the first and second constituent data streams, and wherein said decomposing includes,

storing a composite data stream map that indicates how to

recompose the plurality of constituent data streams

into the composite data stream,

wherein the composite data stream map includes a map header and one or more map blocks, each map block corresponding to a section, wherein the map header includes a composite data stream identifier for identifying the associated composite data stream, a total number of constituent data streams associated with the composite data stream, and a constituent data stream identifier

for identifying each of the constituent data streams, and wherein each map block includes information identifying a location of each of the identified constituent data streams; and

storing using segment reuse a set of one or more of said plurality of constituent data streams, said storing using segment reuse including performing the following for each of said set of constituent data streams, segmenting the constituent data stream, determining which segments resulting from the segmenting match segments already stored, and storing only those segments of the constituent data stream that cannot be restored using segments already stored.

8. - 9. (Cancelled).

10. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein said storing each of said plurality of composite data streams further comprises:

determining the second constituent data stream is of administrative data that may be restored by regeneration rather than being stored; and discarding said second constituent data stream.

11. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 10, wherein a map block of the composite data stream map further comprises a composite offset and a constituent data stream offset for each constituent data stream, wherein the composite offset specifies an offset in the composite data stream from which a starting data stream block of data to be

recomposed from the constituent data streams identified by corresponding constituent data stream offsets, and wherein each constituent data stream offset indicates an offset in a corresponding constituent data stream from which the starting data stream block of data is to be recomposed ~~wherein the administrative data is tape markers and/or header information.~~

12. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for storing data comprising:
- receiving, at a storage server having a composite data stream decomposer/recomposer and a segment reuse storage system, a composite data stream from a backup server, wherein the backup server is part of a backup system that includes a client application on a computer coupled to the backup server, said composite data stream representing at least a snapshot of data residing at the computer coupled to said backup server, wherein the client application and/or backup server insert into the composite data stream administrative data that is expected upon restore and that if kept in the composite data stream would result in a relatively low compression efficiency of the segment reuse storage system;
- storing the received composite data stream so that it may be restored to the backup server, said storing including,
- decomposing the composite data stream into a plurality of constituent data streams, the plurality of constituent data streams including at least a first constituent data stream of user data and a second constituent data stream of administrative data, wherein the composite data stream is further sectioned into one or more sections, each including data from

both the first and second constituent data streams, and wherein said decomposing includes,

storing a composite data stream map that indicates how to
recompose the plurality of constituent data streams
into the composite data stream,

wherein the composite data stream map includes a map header and one
or more map blocks, each map block corresponding to a section,
wherein the map header includes a composite data stream
identifier for identifying the associated composite data stream, a
total number of constituent data streams associated with the
composite data stream, and a constituent data stream identifier
for identifying each of the constituent data streams, and wherein
each map block includes information identifying a location of
each of the identified constituent data streams; and

backing up each of said plurality of constituent data streams separately, said
backing up including, applying segment reuse to back up a set of one or
more of said plurality of constituent data streams including,
segmenting at least the first constituent data stream in to current
~~segment~~segments;
determining which of the current segments match already stored
segments; and
storing only those of the current segments that do not match already
stored segments.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 13, wherein said backing up includes:

discarding the second constituent data stream because it is of administrative data that may be restored using regeneration as opposed to storage.

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus to back up data comprising:

a storage server including,

an interface agent to receive over time composite data streams from a server representing snapshots of data residing at a set of one or more sources;
a composite data stream ~~decomposer and recomposer~~ ~~decomposer/recomposer~~, coupled to said interface agent, to decompose composite data streams into their constituent data streams and composite data stream maps, the composite data stream maps indicate how to recompose their corresponding composite data streams from their constituent data streams, the constituent data streams include at least a first constituent data stream of user data and a second constituent data stream of administrative data, and to recompose composite data streams from their constituent data streams and their composite data stream maps, wherein the composite data stream is further sectioned into one or more sections, each including data from both the first and second constituent data streams, wherein a composite data stream map includes a map header and one or more map blocks, each map block corresponding to a

section, wherein the map header includes a composite data stream identifier for identifying the associated composite data stream, a total number of constituent data streams associated with the composite data stream, and a constituent data stream identifier for identifying each of the constituent data streams, and wherein each map block includes information identifying a location of each of the identified constituent data streams;

a map file storage, coupled to said composite data stream decomposer and recomposer~~decomposer/recomposer~~, to store the composite data stream maps; and

a segment reuse storage system, coupled to said composite data stream decomposer and recomposer~~decomposer/recomposer~~, to perform segment reuse to store and restore constituent data streams.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising:

an administrative data regenerator, coupled to said composite data stream decomposer and recomposer~~decomposer/recomposer~~, to regenerate data from constituent data streams that was not stored because that data could be restored by regeneration.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the administrative data is regenerated in accordance with composite data stream attribute data retrieved from a configuration file.

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the composite data stream ~~decomposer and recomposer includes decomposer/recomposer~~ is a machine-readable storage medium having stored thereon a set of instructions, which when executed by a set of one or more processors, cause the operations of the composite data stream decomposer/recomposer to be performed.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the composite data stream ~~decomposer and recomposer decomposer/recomposer~~ is an application specific integrated circuit.